

The Arlington Advocate

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Henry Ottoson, West Principal, Dies at Age 68

The Junior High West was closed yesterday in respect to Principal A. Henry Ottoson, 68, who died unexpectedly Saturday.

Mr. Ottoson, who had been principal of the West since 1939 when he came to Arlington, lived at 370 Gray st. He had planned to retire at the end of the year, and a May 8 testimonial was being planned.

Hundreds of students took part in memorial and funeral services for A. Henry Ottoson, Principal of the Junior High West, yesterday.

Mr. Ottoson received bachelor's and master's degrees from Boston University. He took graduate courses at B.U. and Harvard in remedial reading, administration, guidance, elementary physical education, and psychotherapy for guidance counselors.

Before coming to Arlington, he had taught in Watertown, Norwood, Newton and Framingham, where he had been a principal.

In connection with his professional memberships Mr. Ottoson took part in curriculum workshops, a seminar on school behavior problems, mental health and a national workshop on junior high education.

During World War Two he was in apprentice training at Watertown Arsenal, teaching mechanical drawing and blueprint reading. He also had 20 years of camp experience.

Mr. Ottoson was a member of the Kiwanis Club, Boys' Club Associates, Minute Man Council of Boy Scouts Mass. Junior High Principals' Assn., National Education Assn. Department of Secondary Principals, Massachusetts Teachers' Assn.,

Also, Forest Lawn Assn., Boston University Alumni Assn., Mystic Valley Mental Health Assn., St. George Assn. of Firefighters of Boston, and the Arlington Auxiliary Fire Department, of which he was a former chief.

More than 400 faculty and students took part in a memorial service at the school yesterday morning led by vice principal Edmund Mahoney. Featured at the service was the reading of a seventh grade student's poem by eighth grade class president Jim Papagni.

Senior faculty member Dorothy Frost eulogized Mr. Ottoson, a man who had been



A. Henry Ottoson

known by 12,000 students in more than 30 years in Arlington, as "nearly the last of the old order of educators."

A silent prayer and Taps concluded the service. The students and teachers then proceeded to St. James Church where eulogical services were conducted by Msgr. John Feeney of St. James Church and Rev. Henry L. Tomsden of St. Paul Lutheran Church.

The eighth grade class officers were honorary pallbearers. Class president Papagni gave a reading and the 50-student choral group sang three hymns. Park West teacher Mrs. Elizabeth Spiewak sang "The Lord's Prayer."

On his death, Supt. of Schools William T. Gibbs said, "Most of us can remember a teacher who has had a deep and lasting influence on our lives. For the students, the staff, and the parents of students of the Junior High West for more than 32 years, A. Henry Ottoson was that man."

"His sincere love of the students expressed in many personal ways, his professional competence demonstrated to his own staff and other school officials, and the confidence and warm understanding which he generated in parent relationships (many parents were former students) will never be forgotten."

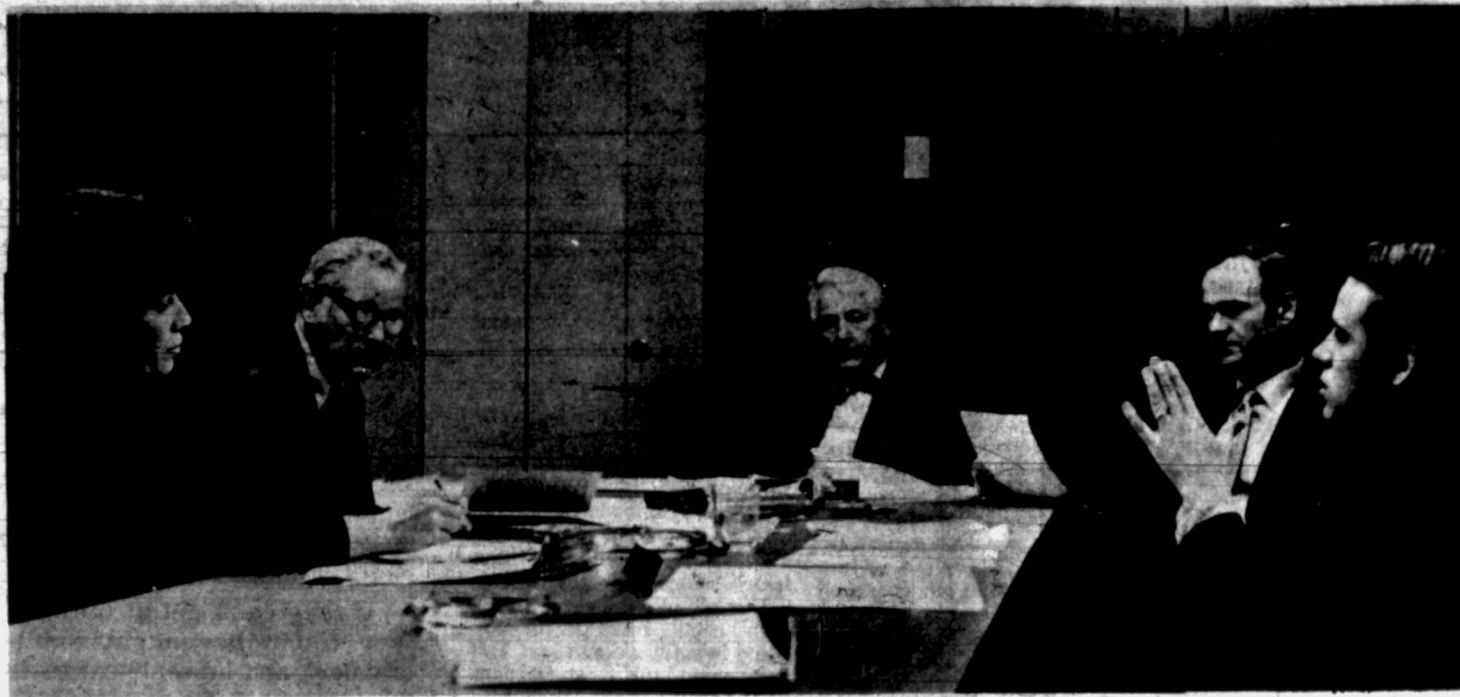
"We have all lost a dear friend and a truly dedicated professional educator."

Robert Murray, chairman of the School Committee, said, "Although I had only known Henry Ottoson a short while, I was deeply impressed by him. He was always a gentleman and always a gentle man. His loyalty and dedication should serve as a goal to all who work in education."

"I'm sure that Henry left a very positive mark on all students who came in contact with him. I would like to say, 'Thanks, Henry, thanks for a job truly well done, and may you rest in peace, a peace you so richly deserve.'"

Mr. Ottoson was married to the late Mrs. Helen (McDonough) Ottoson. He is survived by three children, John and Ann Ottoson of Arlington, and Mrs. Alina Potark of Melrose; and four grandchildren.

Memorial donations may be made to the A. Henry Ottoson Scholarship Fund.



Mrs. Joan Gross joined the Arlington Housing Authority on Monday as a result of her appointment to that board by Gov. Francis Sargent. She replaces Myron D. Chase who did not seek reappointment due to health reasons. From left, Mrs. Gross, Executive Director Robert Hauser, Chairman Joseph Vahey, John F. Cusack, Frederick Buckley and, not present for photo, John Hogan. (Advocate Staff Photo)

New Board

Wide, Varied

Reaction To AHS Stories

By Kathryn Jorgensen

"Blown out of proportion." "Exaggerated."

These are some of the terms by which Arlington High School students are describing charges made last week by School Committee chairman Robert Murray about conditions at the high school.

Murray, backed by the School Committee with some reluctance, has asked for the school administrators to have recommendations for improving conditions at the high school ready for a special meeting this Tuesday.

Some of the conditions which he cited in his statement include absenteeism, molesting of teachers and girls students, noise and traffic in the corridors, vandalism, corridor lights being turned off and a variety of conditions in the cafeteria.

The community has had almost a week in which to react since the first news of Murray's statement appeared in The Boston Globe last Wednesday, and The Advocate on Thursday.

What has the reaction been? More false alarms and incidents at the school.

Chairman Murray says he received many phone calls from adults agreeing with what he was trying to do.

Supt. of Schools William T. Gibbs says the department has not had response, but that when he is out in the community he is asked about it.

One School Committee member told our reporter she was going to fight the paper to keep Tuesday's meeting in executive (closed) session. She questioned Murray's motivation in bringing the whole thing up since he is one of three committee members whose terms expire in March.

Parents and adults who wrote letters to The Advocate share Murray's concern, as do a few students.

Some teachers at a meeting last Thursday said they felt planning for a flexible day (open campus) program should not proceed until current internal problems are solved. Some students feel open campus would solve the problems.

The bulk of the students, however, feel that the statement was overdone, and some express an interesting logic in answering the charges.

Reaction of the students came in many letters—letters which in some cases were assigned by a teacher or were encouraged by the Student Council.

One feeling shared by many of the students was embarrassment. How could Mr. Murray

say those things about our school—what will kids in the other towns think? What will prospective colleges think?

Many were angry that the Boston press, radio and TV had covered the story. This added to their embarrassment. It became logical for some of the students to blame the communication media—it was their fault for printing or publishing the statement. What the reaction would have been had the committee chairman issued a statement which the press ignored was not considered.

Some of the students felt that Murray was blaming them for the problems. But his statement didn't read that way. No one person or group was blamed—it was just a call on the administrators to straighten out the situation.

Many students protested the word "molest." Sure girls are being pinched, hair pulled, smacked and verbally harassed—that's not molest. A few male students suggested that if it happened to a girl more than once it was her fault because she didn't pick her route to class very well.

Sure there's vandalism, students agree. One student suggested it was the custodian's fault the water fountain was thrown down the stairs because he disconnected it and left it unattended.

A number of students agree that there are problems in the school and they pinpoint a minority of individuals as the cause.

One letter pinpoints some of the athletes, the heroes of the school, as perpetrators of some of the acts criticized.

A few of the students place other blame—on the school committee and on their administrators and teachers. Several mention the uneven and unfair application of rules and punishments.

A parent called to report an incident involving two boys who went across Mass. avenue for sandwiches. They were reported to their housemasters—one received the mandatory three-day suspension and the other a two-hour detention. Many who leave the building get no punishment. Some tell us they are sent out for teachers' lunches.

We got calls about the kids who ran away for a week, and nothing happened to them when they came back. There's the boy who brags about the number of full days of detention he has accrued, which he knows he will not be forced to serve.

The kids tell about the distinction between the good-bad and the bad-bad kids. They also tell you how many don't know their administrators by name or face.

A cafeteria worker tells about injuries

suffered when workers sat on broken chairs which collapsed and when they fell on food thrown on the floor.

She also tells about the pudding dripping off walls and ceilings; chairs being thrown over heads of diners; papers being burned on top of cafeteria tables; loss of dishes, silverware and trays. 1200 absences the day before Christmas, and some of those in school being drunk.

These comments, criticisms and observations give all of us in Arlington something to reflect upon.

First, the charges brought up last week by the chairman are not new or a surprise. To those attending school committee meetings or reading the paper on a regular basis the statement by Chairman Murray was only a summation of past problems.

The kids are embarrassed about their reputation, they object to metropolitan news coverage, they care what colleges think of their school.

Well, they got national press coverage when students tried to take over the public address system and a student burned an American flag and subsequently went to court. That effort to get the PA system was symptomatic of some of the problems.

Last year there was coverage in the Boston press as well as The Advocate about vandalism at the Boston Arena and to MBTA buses by Arlington High hockey fans. That metropolitan coverage and what some Boston sportswriters were saying about Arlington fans was another indication of high school problems.

Last spring the high school teachers stopped working on evaluations needed for accreditation review. The School Committee learned of this some time after work stopped, and the fall accreditation visit was cancelled. But the students who were applying to colleges didn't see this teacher slow-down as another indication that the administration and staff at Arlington High were not working together in the best interests of the school and the student?

Last spring some teachers asked for para-professionals to be hired to patrol the corridors because of problems in the halls and intimidation of teachers. The School Committee and principal discussed a related problem of non-students in the school and the difficulty of controlling access and egress. That was in the paper too.

In June a matron at the high school in a letter to The Advocate told of conditions at the school, many of which are the same type of

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Initial Budget For School Dept. Up By \$676,400 For 1972

The preliminary 1972 school department budget, before being scrutinized by the School Committee and Finance Committee, totals \$9,656,433. This early figure represents an increase of \$676,388 over last year's final budget of \$8,980,045.

According to Administrative Assistant Richard Connolly, the budget, which the top administrators feel is realistic and justifiable, does include the recently approved 4 1/2 percent and other raises but does not include raises for the September-December period. He would expect allocation for those salaries to mean a total budget increase of less than 10 percent over last year.

The 1000 account for administration, \$247,178 up from \$224,285, shows a \$23,000

increase, much of which Connolly attributes to the raises for clerical staff, the new \$5000 position for volunteer coordinator and allocation of some student aides in this budget.

Connolly, in an effort to implement planned program budgeting, has been putting some budget items into new categories which are more appropriate and make determination of program expenses simpler.

The 2000 instruction account is up from \$7,081,846 to \$7,429,922. This reflects the raises and new personnel who came in September. Also in this account is \$54,344 for new staff from September to December '72 including a director of data processing, 72 high school teachers, two teachers at West, one at Hardy, and a half-time kindergarten teacher at Crosby. Adult Education costs are up \$6,000 due to an expanded program.

Another increase is for lunch aides, with the hiring of eight more, from \$13,600 to \$17,000. General supplies, which was cut in last year's budget, is increased \$6,000, or a 5 percent per capita increase.

Other costs in this account include vocational school supplies, which were cut in half to \$7500, data processing supplies, 100 percent course reimbursement for teachers and audio visual supplies.

In an effort to bolster the elementary social studies programs \$6500 has been budgeted for new maps and globes and textbooks.

The 3000 account, other school services, such as athletics, cafeteria, busing, nurses, is up from \$285,784 to \$322,096, much of the change due to salaries. Other expenses in this account include a new bus for which a minibus is being turned in, and bus tickets for vocational students who are now tuition students at other schools.

The 4000 maintenance account is up from \$1,207,759 to \$1,386,122. Last year this account was hit by doubled fuel costs because of new sulphur requirements, and fuel costs still remain high.

The 5000 account for fixed charges, includes space rent and payments on the demountable classrooms. This account increases from \$96,993 to \$108,108.

The 7000 account, acquisition of fixed assets, is up from \$52,378 to \$126,007. Much of this budget is recommended by Frank Wright, director of Properties and Natural Resources. Other items include office and classroom machines and equipment such as typewriter tables, library tables, bookcases.

Included in this account is a new \$15,000 junior high graphic arts program, half of which would be reimbursed if it receives state and federal approval.

The 9000 account, programs with other districts, is increased from \$22,500 to \$27,000. Tuition for vocational and special education students is in this account.

Out of state travel, account 10,000, is up from \$3500 to \$5000, the level it had been at two years ago.

The 11,000 account for money advanced to the vocational school which is returned to the system remains at \$5,000.

The school department expects to also receive \$56,299 in Public Law 874 aid to impacted areas.



CAN RECYCLING - Richard Bowler, Public Works general foreman, checks the dumpster provided by the Jaycees for can recycling, and notes that not only is there plenty of room for more, but that some residents are throwing their trash in it too. The dumpster is at the Town

Yard on Grove Street for collection of cans only. The cans will then be taken to Continental Can Co. in Malden for recycling. Cans must be cleaned, crushed, and the labels must be removed. (Staff Photo by Mike Robinson)

In Protest

Teachers Walk Out Of Meeting

A small group of teachers last week walked out of a meeting of High School teachers and the flexible school day committee, to indicate their feeling that no programs for an open campus type of plan should be worked on until current problems at the high school were solved and until the administrators make their report to the School Committee this Tuesday.

The meeting, first called with teachers by the study committee, was supposed to concentrate on teacher ideas for a flexible school day program. Teachers were assured that the committee would not take any action until the faculty is involved and has indicated its opinion about proposals by vote.

The meeting was led by George P. Faulkner, chairman of the flexible day

committee, which to date has been studying open campus programs in other schools, present high school conditions, and the local community and its relationship to such a program.

In answer to a faculty member's question on how discipline would be maintained, Asst. Supt. Richard McKay said a major problem now is that there are no controls over those who can't cope. Identification of these students and alternatives would be given in a flexible program, he said.

Some tension rose when teachers walked out following Faulkner's rejection of a motion from the floor to clear up internal problems before accepting a flexible program.

As teachers left, Mrs. Doris Cremins, School Committee member, asked teachers to

stay and cooperate, and said there would be a meeting with teachers about the current problems.

Housemaster George Fusco also asked teachers to stay, saying in his 32 years in the system he had seen little change in curriculum and scheduling.

The flexible program is a chance to do something in this direction, he said. Those who walk out "walk out on the kids and yourselves," he said, adding that cafeteria and other problems evolve from the need for changes in philosophy and curriculum and need for meaning to be given to the students.

When a teacher expressed frustration and a feeling of no power, complaining and getting no response, McKay pledged that he would do everything possible to listen to the teachers and alleviate their concerns.



Days Of Market Gardening

Collins' Corner

by Leonard Collins



A gentleman noted in a previous column that he never knew Arlington was an industrial town. One of the largest business enterprises, if not the most lucrative, was that of market gardening. Now here is a picture taken way back when you and I were very young Maggie, and it is the Crosby Farm off Lake St. and facing about where the Hardy School is today.

The gentleman in the derby hat was the owner. His name was Walter Crosby, and he was later a Selectman in our Town. He is not to be confused with the Crosbys on Mystic St., both brother Howell and Nelson, who also were town fathers and members of our state legislature.

In fact, Mr. Crosby in the photo looks a bit like a guy who might be on the staff of Martin Lomassney, or a director of personnel for "good old Tammany Hall." However, he owned this farm and piggery. Among the farmers who worked for him were Pat Daly, Bill Sullivan, Bill Flaherty, John Moran, and Joseph Campobasso, who apparently came over in another boat. These men worked for \$3 per week and eventually received 100 percent raise to \$1 per day, and with that raise they could look forward to starting their own little farm.

Well one gentleman just did that, and that was Mr. Campobasso, whose family is well known in town. He bought the old Whittemore Farm from Tom Purcell, down on the "Goat Acres" off North Union St. and near where the Thompson School is today.

This was a great farm area. Names that come to mind are the Purcells, Hines, Campobasso, Regans and Catalanos, and beyond the road, Rawsons. In that section of the town, and over on Lake St. with the Wymans and Lyons, and Allens, some of the finest crops were sent to Market.

Beets, celery, cucumbers, were welcomed by the buyers in the Fanueil Hall stalls, and were sold to the top hotels, and tables that ate only the choicest on Beacon Hill and Commonwealth Avenue.

Mr. Campobasso had one of the first mushroom pits in this section, and later with five green houses raised Gardenias and carnations, (and one might say raised a fine family also). He was one of the first Italians in this section, and became known to all that landed in Boston, and they would visit him for advice and leadership in the complex workings of their New homeland. And as John F. Fitzgerald would say our "newah" peoples who have done quite well over the years.

One time Mr. Campobasso won a first prize for celery, but the judge couldn't spell his name and he lost, and the judge who was an immigrant from the "Ould Sod" awarded the turkey to Mr. Purcell. Nothing personal you understand, but some names are easier to spell and pronounce than others.

And while this is a bit corny, a story is told of two ladies down that way talking, and one had moved "up town." Said the first lady, "How do you like where you live?"

And the other said, "It's not bad except there are so many foreigners in the neighborhood."

And her friend said, "You've been in this country five years, and already you're an Indian."

And before we cover up the Remington, we must admit we were disturbed by the Boston and Advocate stories about our high school. The writer is not one that says it didn't happen in other days nor worries about our youth, and what in the world we are coming to. It happened 100 years ago, and the difference is that today we are larger, and with the advent of the automobile we move much faster, and are much better educated in the workings of our government and society.

At one time over 50 years ago our School Committee, with the help of principal of the high school, and the Superintendent, hired two detectives in the role of janitors to check stealing in the cloak rooms. In a short time four were caught and removed from the school, and never returned. Sad, but true, but it was done very quietly, because at that time the world open meetings were unknown.

For a job with no salary attached, a person who sits on the School Committee really has what is known in sports as a lot of intestinal fortitude, and one wonders how many critics have that kind of courage. Many a distracted parent is wondering how to cope with some of the kinds. The writer remembers a local police officer coming to him when he had charge of the playgrounds in town, and begged him to assist in helping his boy. It's a full time job, and those that yell the most do the least.

Candidates For Major Office

The following candidates have taken out papers for major office in the Annual Town Election in March.

Town Clerk-Mary A. Farrington
Town Treasurer-John J. Balafer, Earle R. Rowe, William A. Regan, Jr.

Selectman-Dennis J. Dacey, John W. Bullock, James F. Lawson, Jr., Ronald A. Nigro, Francis Coughlin, Harry P. McCabe

Assessor-John B. Byrne, Jr.
School Committee-Harold P. Shifer, Charles H. Lyons, Ann Klein.

Calendar

Monday, Jan. 17
Sundance Bookmobile, Bishop School through Tuesday.

Tuesday, Jan. 18
"The Apparitions of Our Blessed Mother to Four Little Girls in Spain," 8 p.m., St. Agnes Church.
Dr. Otto S. Nau, speaker at Cutter School Lounge, 7:45 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 19
Arlington Circle, Florence Crittenton League, Petite Luncheon, Junior Library Hall, 12:30 p.m.

County Government '72, Citizens for Middlesex County, Town Hall, 8 p.m.
Drug Talk, Det. William Shea, Elks Home, 9 p.m.

Sundance Bookmobile, Thompson School, through Friday.

Letters To The Advocate

EDITOR'S NOTE:

The outpouring of letters-to-the-editor this week is response to our request last issue for various points of view on the high school situation. A number of the letters were written as an English class assignment; others were more spontaneous. The majority are from students, but many are not. The first 20 or so letters have been grouped for presentation as they represent a wide variety of points of view. Some letters point to The Advocate as the source of charges against the school administration. Others more accurately note that the newspaper only reported what took place at the School Committee meeting last week. We regret we cannot take credit for initiating the situation—we only reported what School Committee Chairman Murray had to say. Our editorial statements of last week were confined to criticizing the School Committee for its attempt to discuss Murray's charges in secret executive session rather than in public, and to pointing out that the Committee itself has the ultimate responsibility for the conduct of education in public schools. (Some of the letters seemed to have missed that.)

A Parent Responds

TO THE EDITOR:

The current expose of conditions at Arlington High School has shocked this community.

The school committee, the school administrators, and the teachers are bearing the brunt of this scrutinizing investigation.

In my opinion, a very important body of people is being overlooked.

We, the Parents!

At the last open house at Arlington High, many teachers waited all evening for the parents of their students. Two teachers, of major subjects, told us that they had each only had two parents visit their classrooms. It's quite likely that the teachers feel a lack of support from us, the parents.

The parents I questioned said they didn't want to wait in line, but they wait in line in our local supermarkets! In turn, the children seem to be disenchanted with both. While the teachers and parents are trying to determine "Who's on first", it seems the kids are "Running the bases!"

We all hope the issues raised about boys molesting girls are isolated incidences, not everyday occurrences. But that brings more questions to mind.

Are we, as parents, producing boys who think it is funny to insult girls? Are we, as parents, producing girls so uncertain of their roles as females that they interpret insulting attention from a boy as flattery?

Why didn't I complain when one of my child's Junior High teachers used four letter words when she became angry at the class? Was it because the teacher happened to be black and I didn't want to "rock the boat"? I was wrong! Possibly this is another opportunity to "rock the boat," the boat being our present address, yours and mine.

This investigation will accomplish nothing unless we, the parents, take a good, honest look at ourselves, our homes, and our family life. After all, that's where it's at!

Sincerely,
Ruth A. Faulkner
130 Gray St.

Parent Cites Problem

TO THE EDITOR:

I am included to agree with Mr. Robert Murray, the School Committee chairman, that Arlington High is out of control.

My 14-year-old daughter entered the 9th grade there in September and in just several months she changed from a child who respected family and

home, into a very stubborn child.

She has run away from home three times since September. She is not living at home now.

On numerous occasions she has returned from Arlington High, at the end of the school day, with severe bruises on her body. These bruises appeared on her legs and arms and stomach area, and they appeared to have been caused by kicks or blows. When questioned as to what caused the bruises, she always replied that she fell down in school.

She appears to be afraid to talk or to tell the truth, and now she states that she feels that she cannot get along with her parents.

A Parent

Be Fair To Majority

TO THE EDITOR:

Revelations in your editorial were shocking and practically beyond the realm of my imagination.

My first question: Is the request for a meeting behind closed doors to keep the scandal (which it is) from the public, or is it fear of retaliation from the radical element?

My second question is: Why does Mr. Murray not want "an iron fist" crackdown? It seems to me the rapid deterioration of our society is caused by accepting and coddling radicals who are creating chaos.

I am confident there are many students who are interested and want an education. Weed out the ones that use the school to create havoc and either suspend or dismiss them. Mr. Murray wants to be "fair" how about being fair to the sincere students? If it seems they deserve prime consideration, "The heck with it!"

The decent people are being pushed back against a wall while the radicals are making unreasonable demands and being treated "fairly". It will take a group with guts to clean up this mess and I hope and pray it will be remedied.

I am both angry and saddened by this situation.
Very truly yours,
Mary Perry

Blame Is Shared

TO THE EDITOR:

The dictionary defines education as, "to develop mentally and morally by instruction"—but it seems that the guarantee of an education at Arlington High School is becoming an ordeal at best. When teachers are assaulted verbally and physically, when

female students can't walk through the corridors without having their skirts lifted in the dark, the individual civil rights and the human dignity have both been violated, not to mention the academic process.

What's happened to the control the principals and the housemasters at Arlington High used to be noted for? Speaking as a graduate of AHS (class of '55), just the idea of having to see Mr. Kemp or Mr. Petrallia could strike fear into the hearts of most students. Today it seems that the students strike fear into the hearts of the headmasters. How far away is the day when a full blown riot will destroy Arlington High School, and what's even more important, perhaps take a life?

Where does the root of the problem lie? With the students, with Mr. Locke and his administration, with the lower preparatory schools, with the parents, with society? The answer to all of those is yes! The students have got to want something better. Mr. Locke and his people have got to crack down on individual violators with criminal action if necessary.

The elementary and junior high schools have got to stop being permissive and lax. And the parent, the most flagrant violator of all, should initiate the basic training of respect for people and their property in the home. Society in general has got to realize the fact that our schools cannot merely be baby sitting factories where parents can send their offspring for six hours. Wake up Arlington, school life today is not what the producers of "Room 222" would have you think.

School Committee Chairman Murray speaks of a shake-up in the high school administration, well perhaps the voters should consider a shake-up in Mr. Murray's administration. The School Committee's function is to oversee in a responsible manner the operation of the public schools in Arlington. They must act in this matter as responsible individuals.

Keep in mind also, that not every student in Arlington High is a vandal or a so-called "hippie." A good percentage of them, better than 75 percent of them, in my estimation, are in school to learn. You never hear about the kids who are involved in Junior Achievement, or Student Government, or the girls who give up their time to be "Candy Strippers" (hospital volunteers). Their actions don't sell newspapers or make for an interesting six P.M. news broadcast.

Remember, the leaders of America tomorrow are in school today.

Don Nelson
24 Orchard Pl.

A Parent Thanks

DEAR MR. MURRAY:

Last night I read in The Arlington Advocate your statement regarding the problems at Arlington High School. Not since my good friend at Westfield State College, President Savignano, have I been impressed with a courageous effort such as yours in telling it like it is.

After reading your statement last night, I walked into my three-year-old

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That Man About Town

A Column Of Opinion And Comment

By MAT

One thing the boss should have pointed out last week in his heated editorial about attempts to put the School Committee into executive session and bar the public was the cool-headed control vice chairman Dick Kraus maintained over the meeting.

Kraus started off by setting a few ground rules, one of which was that he wouldn't accept any motion for executive session unless the member making it could first demonstrate how the subject matter would qualify under the state open meeting law.

A smart position and one Kraus maintained throughout the night. It avoids the old trick the Selectmen have tried to pull in the past of "going into executive session to determine if we're going to go into executive session."

As noted, the boss editorialized last week about certain School Committee members wanting the high school situation covered up. Perhaps it's because those members don't know how to respond in public to a serious attempt at coming up with a new policy.

They'd probably be embarrassed that they'd only continue to ask some of the same irrelevant, inane questions they produce when minor matters are being discussed.

They realize how foolish they look in print when they're quoted on some of the real deep thinking stuff like the relative merits of key operated light switches vs. centrally operated master controls.

If they can't get at the root of the problem in open session, perhaps they might be enlightened by some informal chats with students, teachers and administrators in a one-to-one situation rather than at a Star Chamber Court.

The students and the teachers recognize that a great many factors have contributed to the "situation" as it is described by Chairman Bob Murray. Each incident appears to have its own direct and indirect cause. But the incidents happen every day, over and over again. Why?

Talk to some teachers who know they won't be put in jeopardy by having their names revealed in the paper and talk to some students and you'll get some straight answers.

There has been an almost complete breakdown of enforcement of rules and regulations at the high school. This has happened for a number of reasons, but chief among them are (1) a burdensome conglomeration of unenforceable regulations as printed in the student handbook and otherwise promulgated (2) a consistently reinforced attitude on the part of the teacher's union that discipline is not part of their "professional" responsibility (3) a final capitulation by teachers who've just thrown in the towel and now turn the other way when rules are broken. They feel they can't depend on administrative support or equal application of punishments for like offenders in other parts of the school.

Oddly enough, the principal does spend a considerable amount of time trying to keep things in control, straightening out situation after situation as they occur. But he apparently has no overall support from the staff—even from some of his own administrators. As fast as he puts out one fire, another breaks out someplace else.

Last spring there was an appeal to the school committee for outside assistance in patrolling corridors to keep non-students out of the school and others from disrupting classes. Essentially the teachers were told not to complain about class being interrupted by noise in the corridors but to get out and do something about it.

It worked. There was a major crackdown. Teachers started stopping kids in the corridors during class hours, asking them to identify themselves and taking disciplinary action if the offenders couldn't explain their presence.

For last May and June it worked. The teachers cooperated with each other. They made it their business to enforce rules. But when school reopened in September, it was a different story. The union negotiations were still dragging on and the "professionalists" ignored the discipline problem.

Some teachers tried. Some still do. Even last week the kids would tell you that there is one corridor where you don't fool around between classes because there's still a teacher on that floor who'll nail you.

But there are plenty of other places. In fact, last week in a 300 ft. stretch of corridor there must have been 12 to 15 kids just "hanging around."

"You're supposed to have a pass to be in the corridors," says one student. "But nobody ever checks passes anymore—except for Mr. —"

Even if they do, you just give them a name and go your way. With 3,000 kids in the school, chances are most of the teachers don't know your real name.

Last week, for instance, two girls were smoking in a phone booth. That's right, two girls in one phone booth, both smoking away. A woman teacher walked right by, glanced at them and kept on going. And this was AFTER Murray had blasted the administration about the discipline problem.

What are all those kids doing at Buttrick's during school hours you ask. The reply, "Well, most of them just go over on their own, but some are sent by a teacher to bring back lunch or an ice cream." "By a Teacher?" "Oh, yes, they usually say, 'Don't get caught' but none of the kids worry about getting caught because everybody does it."

Next you find out that a certain teacher often has a student run across Mass. ave. to get a submarine sandwich. "You might say we have an unofficial open campus," you're told.

And that's the big complaint of many students right now. The ones who obey the rules and could best operate under an open campus system are being penalized by their own refusal to take advantage of the lack of enforcement.

"A lot of kids skip the last period and nothing ever happens," you hear. Detention. Oh, "only the good-bad kids even go to detention. The bad-bad kids just don't show up."

A lot of the incidents don't get much notice. Some of the vandalism is completely senseless, even to the students themselves. Like a few weeks ago when one kid opened a window on the fourth floor, threw out a chair, and closed the window. It didn't even have any practical joke value.

Since the newspaper came out last Thursday, there have been six false fire alarms pulled at the high school, two cherry bombs thrown in the cafeteria, and a small wastebasket fire started in a men's room. Whatever system of controls the administration proposes, they had better be instituted before the situation gets any more serious.

MAT thinks the School Committee should spend less time trying to fix blame for the situation and more effort on establishing firm and fair policy guidelines which detail what is expected of the students, the teachers and the administration. If the people at the top take a weak position, you can't blame the people at the bottom for what goes wrong anyway.

We've reported School Committee members blaming a lack of public interest for their own refusal to wrestle with a knotty problem for any length of time. We think the School Committee might be less inclined to duck this issue if a large number of parents, teachers and students show up at the meeting next Tuesday night. MAT and the boss urge you to attend. After all, it's your school.

The Arlington Advocate

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Letters

daughter's bedroom and planted a kiss on her cheek. Then I went over to her one-year old sister's room and did the same to her. I felt good inside knowing that although they were asleep, Mr. Murray wasn't because he was somehow looking out for these two tykes of mine who perhaps someday will be educated in Arlington.

There is a great deal at stake and I trust that the issues will be discussed in public and not behind closed doors in secret sessions. I also hope that the media will report these discussions objectively so that Arlington residents will have an honest opportunity to evaluate and appraise the situation at Arlington High School as well as the people elected to office.

It is gratifying to know that there is a man such as yourself, Mr. Murray, who isn't afraid to distinguish uncompromisingly between what is right and what is wrong. God bless you for your stand and initiative and may you continue unwaveringly in your quest to administer a solution through the democratic process available to all of us in America.

Sincerely,
Charles Spero
108 Wright St.

Charges Repeated

TO THE EDITOR:

The following letter appeared in The Advocate last June. It contains much of the same information recently made public by Mr. Robert Murray, Chairman of the School Committee. Although I no longer work at the high school, the letter speaks for itself.

In reference to your June 3 article in The Advocate concerning existing conditions at the high school and the possible need for male corridor aides, I would like to direct my comments to the parents of students attending this school. Properly put, not just a few of you will bother to read on.

Since I work at the high school in the capacity of a sanitary matron, what I have to say comes from direct sources and day to day observation.

Yes there is an alarming degree of absenteeism here.

Often times the children you send off to school in the morning purposefully arrive late so they can be marked absent for the day. In this case, they attend only the classes they wish.

Another way they skip classes is to know someone, another student who works in the office, who will take their names off the absence list. In some cases, students roam the corridors or leave the school building for snacks at a friendly clan gathering at Buttricks. Lockland's is another meeting place and I cannot exclude the M & M Delicatessen across the street.

Have you ever driven by these places during the day and wondered about the kids lounging around? Does anyone check absences on report cards? It might account for quite a few poor marks.

I'm sure you must be saying, "Where are the school officials who control such things?" The article was right when it mentioned the numerous entrances available for daytime excursions. It is nearly impossible to keep track of them all.

Some students go out for breakfast every morning and the same goes for lunch. It's a regular country club. (Once in a while a student gets caught.) The day of the Senior Prom approximately 1800 students were absent out of a total of 2700 students in the entire school. There are only 600 or so seniors.

Since about two weeks ago, we have had Step 1 of open campus which means the kids don't have to go to a study hall unless they want to. They have an option of going to the cafeteria where the atmosphere is informal and they can listen to music, or perhaps see a film in the school auditorium.

All this is fine when the rules are enforced. Students were told they were subject to discipline if found in the corridors without a pass. This ultimatum lasted exactly one day. Now we are back to the old routine.

Outsiders are definitely coming into the school. Some are dropouts and others come from who knows where. Rarely are they challenged. They have become commonplace, and no one is immune, including students.

This problem could be solved by initiating identification badges with a student's picture on it, and I believe it would be very effective if students were asked to produce them when necessary.

Drugs are urgent on the list of problems. If one knows the signs, students can easily be diagnosed as being under the influence. Mrs. Picone, who teaches drug education, and Mr. Offenberger have been very effective in their relationships with students on drugs. They are well liked and it takes time to build up this kind of trust and confidence with the young. They have both been instrumental in containing situations which could otherwise have become more serious.

More preventive education is needed in the classroom, and not just at high school levels. Ideally, it should begin in the lower grades, perhaps being taught by qualified teachers in conjunction with science.

At the high school the program should be expanded. It seems that the kids are the only ones who appreciate the value of someone like Mrs. Picone or Mr. Offenberger, people who constantly go to bat for them. When will the town fathers or whoever runs this town wake up?

Aside from the aforementioned ills, boredom is a state of mind at Arlington High School. It's contagious.

I'm sure none of us raved about the merits of school when we were their age, but there seems to be a sad lack of enthusiasm for anything. If we

have to resort to what amounts to incarceration, then we do indeed have a serious situation.

This attitude of kids against the administration and administration against the kids must stop. We must all do our part and get together on the issues before we are permanently divided.

Please care.
Sincerely,
Mrs. Laura Warren
41 Dudley

TO THE EDITOR:

In regards to the article in The Arlington Advocate Jan. 6 about the "intolerable situation" at Arlington High School, I agree thoroughly with Mr. Murray. The incidents are certainly downgrading the town as a whole.

As a 1969 graduate of Arlington High I can certainly say this mess started somewhere in the vicinity of 2 1/2 years ago. Probably the most outstanding change at A.H.S. that started all this chaos was the removal of the dress code during the academic year 1969-1970.

Is it not true that a person's outside appearance is a reflection of his inner self, i.e. personality behavior? What kind of behavior does one expect from students who have found a new freedom in dress i.e., dirty dungarees, buttonless shirts, long freakish hair styles on boys? Behavior fitting to their physical description can only be of the same nature.

I feel that the present situation at A.H.S. is a direct result of the increasing number of freedoms granted to the student body. For example, take the new freedom of a designated smoking grounds for students with smoking passes. Students have been borrowing passes from friends showing unauthorized ownership. Thus a new freedom - a new crime.

As a solution to the problem at A.H.S., I feel the only way to restore the school to the way it was a few years ago, is to look towards the junior high and elementary school pupils. With a gradual abolishment of the new freedoms at A.H.S., the younger pupils will never have been exposed to this bedlam.

An AHS Graduate

TO THE EDITOR:

I am writing in referral to the problems of Arlington High School which were brought to the public's attention by the school Committee. I am presently a senior attending the high school and I am thoroughly disgusted with the actions of my fellow students.

An incident which occurred last week prompted me to write this letter. All senior English classes were required to attend some education films in Lowe Auditorium shown during class periods the week of Jan. 3-7.

One day, while attending a film, I was harassed by some senior boys. By harassed, I mean hit several times on the side of the head, having my hair pulled, my butt pinched and continuous vulgar comments whispered loudly throughout the film.

I should have stood up and walked out or reported this to a teacher, but I knew it would be to no avail since these boys are considered to be prominent members of the senior class. I mean, who in Arlington High would reprimand an "outstanding" football or hockey player? Who?

Contrary to opinion, it is often these "jocks," as they are so suitably labeled, who vandalize the building, harass female students and cause racial tensions. Many people think that the so-called "freaks" are the troublemakers, but they are actually more concerned about improving the school than these other students are.

A Student

TO THE EDITOR:

My opinion (sic) as an Arlington High School student is that you said (sic) much that was not (sic) that bad. A teacher got pinched. Did it break her up. A new substitute (sic) teacher started (sic) a fight with a kid because he wouldn't stay after for him. A kid was carrying (sic) the water fountain down stairs. It slept (sic) and breakers (sic) into a million peices (sic). There is a reason for it all. This guy Murry (sic) had no business (sic) putting his stupid name in with all of that grape with out (sic) the School board knowing about it because then it wouldn't of gotten out.

A Student

TO THE EDITOR:

In regards to your editorial, "Quick, Sweep It Under the Rug," I would like to fortify the statements made by Mr. Murray. I do not wish to express any opinion on whether or not the way Mr. Murray brought out our problems was right or wrong, but I do think that his intentions were good.

The only problem I have noticed from this past week's activities is that the whole situation here at AHS was blown way out of proportion. I am not saying that Mr. Murray's statements were not true, but the general public got the impression that almost every girl has been "molested" of some sort and that most of the guys were destroying the school.

The big difference is that I have lived most, if not all, of these problems for almost three years and for someone who had not lived it, it seemed unbelievable. The problem is not as bad as it has appeared, but nevertheless is a problem. I feel that to take all of the time to place the blame on someone would be useless. We have now put into the limelight a problem that must be dealt with, but let us just solve the problems at hand and proceed on, instead of losing ground by placing useless blame.

I do not feel the blame can be placed on any one person or thing i.e. administration, faculty, students or building

conditions. I honestly think that the problems can be solved without much trouble.

Sincerely,
Mike Sheehan
Junior Class Student Council Representative

TO THE EDITOR:

It is my opinion as a student of Arlington High School, that the problems in this school are not half as bad as you have made them look.

As far as girls being molested goes it's a lot of you know what. The girls were pinched and that's about all and using the word molested was the most ignorant thing that could be done.

There has also been publicity about a water fountain being torn out and thrown down the stairs. The fountain was taken out by a janitor and replaced with a newer model. The janitor left to go somewhere and he left the fountain by the top of the stairs when he came back the fountain had been knocked down the stairs. That was the fault of the janitor for leaving it there in the first place it is not the fault of the student body or of the administration.

There are problems in this school but they all have easy solutions or had them until the articles that run the newspapers blew everything out of proportion. The six administrators were blamed for the trouble in this school - well they just happen to be some of the few people around here that care about everything except for the Principal Mr. Locke who is seldom seen outside of his office.

The only people qualified to write an article on this school is someone that is in here all the time and really knows what's going on in here and that leaves

out newspaper reporters and the clowns on the school committee that come into the school once or twice a year.

A Student

TO THE EDITOR:

I am a student at Arlington High and would like to comment on the recent controversy concerning it. In my opinion, the accounts of school committee members are completely exaggerated. They reviewed our school at the worst possible time. The only time our school is like that is before vacations. Granted we do have

problems, however, that could easily be solved if teachers and other authorities enforced stricter control. But, I am sure it couldn't be solved in two weeks. At certain times, groups of boys gather in the halls and embarrass girls. But, I would not go as far as to say we take a big risk coming here.

A Student

TO THE EDITOR:

About the front page in the last issue of your newspaper you over emehaze (sic) the fact about the teachers being molested and the girls, you really blew it out of proportion

some what do to the fact you made this seem like it was happening every day and people were tearing apart the school. And about skipping (sic) class Mr. Taylor (sic) was pleading to some of the kids to go home and to leave the building from the caff or if he saw you in the halls he'd ask were (sic) you were going and he'd call your explanation (sic) a doudfull (sic) story and tell you to leave the building.

A Student

TO THE EDITOR:
I feel that the situation at Arlington High is out of hand. The day before any holiday

nearly more than half the kids are absent. I agree with Mr. Murray 100 percent. Arlington High does need a change and it needs it now.

Some of the parents in this town don't know what their kids do in school all day long. This statement is my own opinion, so don't get me wrong. This should be done a long time ago, but the situation at that time wasn't that bad. So if no one else does anything about it, then who will?

A Student

(Letters - Page 4)

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Letters

TO MR. MURRAY:

In my opinion, I find your column very convincing. But, I find some of these things true and false. You can't just talk about these serious offenses, you've got to do something about them.

In your article you seem to blame the housemasters and principals. I agree with you. There should be harder punishment to a person who breaks any of the codes of the schools.

But what I'm really mad about is, I think that you and your fellow members of the School Committee sit around blaming everyone but yourselves. You members shouldn't take all the blame but most of it. Since you people have set up "open campus" in Arlington High School, there have been nothing but complaints from students and teachers.

Well if you people approve things like "open campus" you shouldn't let it go by if it isn't planned right. In other words, pass if it's set up right. If it isn't, don't pass it at all.

A male student at AHS

TO THE EDITOR:

In response to your article concerning the "utter chaos" at Arlington Senior High School I would like to say that you have reported the facts as they were presented by the chairman of the Arlington School Committee. I was one of the students who attended that meeting and I can testify that all "incidents" written in your article were in truth brought up by Mr. Murray. However, I think that the parents and citizens of Arlington are entitled to hear another side of the situation and as a student I believe that I can tell it.

Most of the charges brought forth by the chairman can be considered meaningless by a high school student in the state. I'm speaking of "excessive absenteeism and class cutting." What is excessive? Surely he could not mean that absenteeism is up from last year. It can't be because the absent list is still the same size it was last year.

I'm also referring to the acts of vandalism. Sure, there are vandals at Arlington High School, but no more than any other place. I am sure that every other school in the state can find at least three isolated acts of vandalism which have taken place inside their institutions in the past four months. Anyone who attends a school will tell you that this is the way in which a vast

minority of 2,800 students behave.

Now, I come to the most important charge... "the molesting of teachers and girls." I think this is most important because of the fear that Arlington's parents now have from looking at the distortions given them by the chairman of the school committee, the press, television, and radio. First, I would like to say that a girl is safe walking the halls of Arlington High School.

At one time, there was a group of boys who stood around in a certain hallway after lunch. After a short time, some of them became a little fresh and one of the girls wrote a letter to our school paper while another complained to the principal. The next day, our principal, Mr. Locke, saw to it that this area was cleared and as far as I know, no girl has been pinched since.

The following week, the school paper came out with the second girl's letter and it was brought to the attention of the school committee by the chairman. As far as the students, teachers, and administrators I have spoken which are concerned, the problem is solved thanks to the quick and wise actions of Mr. Locke and the other members of the administration. It is now too late to make a major issue out of a few unfortunate happenings.

Let me assure you that the hallways of Arlington High School are safe for any girl to walk in.

Very truly yours,
Thomas Gennis
Senior Class President

TO THE EDITOR:

As reported in last week's Advocate, there was a rather lengthy discussion concerning the authenticity of an unsigned letter published in the high school newspaper at the School Committee meeting on January 4.

I can attest that the letter was completely honest and is easily verifiable. The Chronicle, like any major newspaper, has a policy which dictates that all letters to the editor must be signed, but that names may be withheld on request. In this case, the name of the writer was withheld because of editorial discretion, nothing else.

If any further questions on this issue or the editorial policy arise I will be happy to answer them.

Joan Lundstrom
Editor-in-Chief
Chronicle

TO THE EDITOR:

I would like to say that the situation here at Arlington High School is not as serious as it has been blown up to be. This problem of pinching girls started out as a joke. It had definitely reached serious stages but when Mr. Locke was informed of this he put a stop to it at once. After certain individuals stopped this everything was calm. It wasn't done again until a letter in the school newspaper brought out the problem. Then everyone new that it was happening. They did not know that it had been taken care of.

As far as a racial problem in this school I would say that this is unheard of. Here at AHS if someone has a disagreement with a person of another race, color, religion, or nationality, we the students do not look upon this as a racial incident. In any school there will always be someone who would say something against someone else. But this was only one incident here at the high school. It was unfortunate that it happened but that incident was taken care of. This racial bias is labeled by those in our society who are bigots. The people in the society also do this to incite trouble in America. But it really hits home when AHS is labeled as having racial overtones.

As far as the condition of the school it is a mess. The students do break things in the school as they do in every school across the country. It is not everyone in the school that causes trouble. It is only a minority.

To summarize this I would say that as always the minority is heard about when something goes wrong. When something good happens does the public ever hear about it with as much enthusiasm?

Charles Lowder, Jr.
166 Washington St.

TO THE EDITOR:

What you put in the paper was stupid. I think you people have no right to print what I think never went on.

Although some of the story was true, but I never knew they threw no water fountain (sic) off the wall and down the flight of stairs. Therefore if the Teachers and Housemasters were doing their jobs nothing would of had happened at all. Also some of the girls go around looking to get grabbed and pinched. One day a couple of kids asked me to come over to them and they picked me up and threw me in the girls sanitary on the 50's.

Yours truly,
Tom Cook

TO THE EDITOR:

I am writing to you about the situation at Arlington High School. I think that to much has been blown out of proportion at our school.

As for students being so called molested the word was used wrong. Most of this so called molesting is done in the 50's corridor where the lunchroom and hall meet. During the day students have a chance to go to the lunchroom when lunch is not in session. There is not much for students to do. One is when students meet their friends they talk for awhile and then get bored so they get up and want to leave. But one problem is they can't leave because they need a pass. So they stand around. Not molesting people.

I think if there was more down the cafeteria students would stay there. And if we had a flexible campus plan there would not be so many students in the school and that would stop anything that is going on at Arlington High School.

Yours truly
Joan Fitzmaurice
542 Summer St.

TO THE EDITOR:

The story you wrote in The Advocate Thursday 1-6-72, concerning the girls being molested: Molested is not the exact word because Arlington has some parents who think that the boys are taking them away and "raping" them when it's nothing more than a harmless "goose" and most of the girls loved it - it's just a few chosen ones who are so ugly that no-one will go out with them, so they are stuck-up little virgins when if they had the chance they would immediately change their ways.

A Student

TO THE EDITOR:

I am a student at Arlington High School and am writing to you about your article on page one and four of the issue of Thursday, Jan. 6, 1972.

I must say your article has caused a big discussion by both students and faculty. The fact that Arlington High is a little out of control is agreed in the most part. Now that Arlington has the reputation of being chaotic, a lot of students are starting to live up to it. For example! On Jan. 6, 1972, today, that is, two fire alarms in one day! The first one was about 10:15 during third period. Two incidents happened at the same time; down in the cafeteria a cherry bomb or blockbuster was lit and thrown down the back of the cafeteria where no one was sitting but sure scare some a little bit. While that was going on, the fire alarm was pulled near the music rooms on the second floor. The next fire alarm was at 12:20, I have no news on that although I think it was a false alarm.

Now that Arlington has the reputation of people being molested, a lot more of us girls are. Although this will probably pass, the girls are mad at newspapers for starting a whole new thing for the immature ones to do. We thank you for that.

Isn't it expected, that students would cut or skip class before vacation? It always happens, so why bother to say anything about it. What was the use of mentioning the drinking fountain that was thrown down the stairs? At least, it got replaced.

There was a rumor today that Mr. Robert Murry is planning to fire Mr. Locke, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Lincoln, Mr. Toczkowski and Mr. Fusco. It's

not all their fault and why should they have to take the rap. They are doing the best job that they can do. At least give them credit. There are about 2,800 to 3,000 students in Arlington and these men cannot be expected to baby sit us everyone at the same time, every minute of the day.

Some of us students have a few questions. I think the most important is "Why pick on Arlington High?" and why exaggerate (sic) the school to make it sound as if it is another school like in the... MOVIE "Up the Down Staircase"? Plus other questions, perhaps there could be a meeting where students could express their (sic) feelings. Maybe there could be a suggestion box for new ideas to help good old Arlington High!

I have one final suggestion. Give us open campus, like all the other surrounding towns and maybe this situation will pass. The students are going to have to be careful now because a lot of us will be getting suspended or expelled for breathing at the wrong time. I thank you for listening. Thank you for leaning on us.

Sophomore at AHS

TO THE EDITOR:

In my opinion the school is kind of falling apart. But I don't think that it's as bad as said.

There has been a lot of things going on in Arlington High but I think if just a couple of kids smarten up everything will be okay. Even though a couple of kids want to fool around like that, the whole school has to suffer. But in every school they have people like this. So I don't know what will happen, but I have a feeling that things will get worse before they get better.

Thank you,
Sue Pompey

TO THE EDITOR:
I was in bad taste to publicize the incidents occurring at Arlington High. Action could have been taken without all the neighboring towns knowing about it.

Because of this, we will now face a more trying problem. That is trying to place Arlington High's graduates into colleges with high standards. You've belittled the reputation of this school. Other schools have the same problems if not more severe. These are not broadcasted but simply solved.

I realize that we students have wronged and I regret it. You people have also wronged by stigmatizing the administrators and students. Two wrongs don't make a right.

A Student

TO THE EDITOR:

I am wondering what you are talking about. There was one water fountain torn out and that's not plural as what was put in the paper. There was one little incident with a racial problem, not plural as put in the paper. No girls are being molested, just pinched and pinched is a better way of putting it.

There is no big problem in this school as you the Editor tried to make it and did. I didn't know anything about this until I read it.

Don't worry Mr. Chairman. You still have a school if that's what you call it. If people are going to think that about us we might live up to it. Mr. Chairman, then what would you do?

A Student

TO THE EDITOR:

I am a student at Arlington High School and I feel the present situation at the school is not serious. I also feel that The Advocate has not told the whole story of the incidents.

In past years the school has been in worse shape. The absenteeism of this school before vacations is not much different from other schools.

The girls being pinched in the halls I feel is wrong. But if it happens more than once to them it's their own fault. They should go to their housemasters and complain.

Sincerely yours,
Edward Conillio
43 Highland Ave.

(Letters - Page 6)

It's Coming

SCANDIA'S WAREHOUSE SALE

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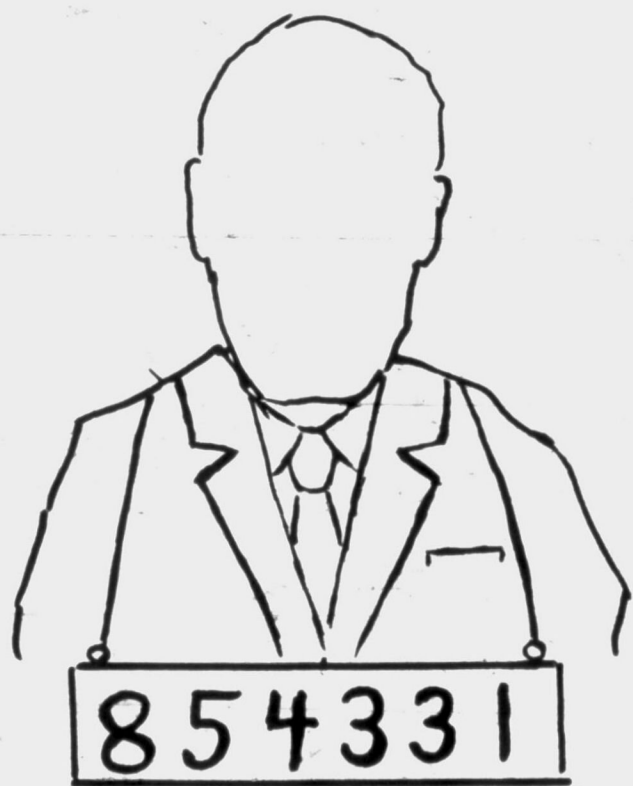
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Girls' Classes In Crafts, Twirling, Modeling Are Set

Girls are not forgotten by the Recreation Department as three programs are presently in operation for the school age girls of the community.

Baton Twirling is a favorite and at present over 100 girls are taking lessons on Saturday mornings at the high school. A new class will begin this Saturday and a few openings are still available.

Any girl in grades 3 through 9 may contact the Recreation Office, 33 Ryder st., and register for this new class. Registrations will be on a first-come, first serve basis with late comers being placed on a waiting list.

This program will conclude in early May with a baton recital and fashion show. Additionally, the girls also compete in the Patriots' Day Parade in April.

Resuming after a two-week vacation lay-off, the Winter Arts and Crafts Program began last Saturday morning

at seven schools: Bishop, Crosby, Dallin, Hardy, Locke, Cutter and Stratton. This program is open to girls in grades 4, 5 and 6 and consists of various craft projects and group games each Saturday morning from 9:15 - 11:45.

New participants from all schools are welcome to attend the school closest to their home. A special field trip is being planned for late February. Many of the girls attended the Ice Capades in late December.

For the older girls (grades 7 through 12), a new Fashion Modeling Class will begin later this month at the high school. Girls may register for these classes by contacting the Recreation Office.

Sessions are devoted to teaching the fundamentals of modeling including fashion design, make-up and other pertinent topics. The new classes will be held in the afternoons after school at Arlington High School.

Announce Opening Of Rte 2 Fence Bids

The opening of bids for the construction of a three foot high chain link fence atop the existing guard rail on 2300 feet of the median of Rte. 2 in Cambridge and Arlington has been announced by State DPW Commissioner Bruce Campbell.

The new fence, to be built from a point about 400 feet west of the Alewife Brook Parkway rotary to the beginning of the new Rte. 2 will make the overall height of the barrier five and one-half feet.

In addition to the new fencing, a three inch safety bar will be mounted on the guard rail posts between the rail and the ground. The

bar will prevent anyone from crawling under the guard rail.

An existing opening in the guard rail about 1500 feet west of the rotary will be left intact to serve persons crossing the road to get to MBTA bus stops. There have been no accidents involving persons using the crossover.

The apparent low bidder for the project, at \$11,017, is General Fence Supply Co., Inc. of Providence, R.I. The DPW estimate was \$19,550.

The project, to be funded entirely by the Commonwealth, is expected to be completed in June.

59 Candidates For 93 Vacancies

There are 58 candidates for the 93 town meeting member vacancies to be filled at the Annual Town Election to be held, Saturday, March 4, according to Town Clerk Mary A. Farrington.

Included in the number of candidates are 40 candidates for re-election for three year terms.

Miss Farrington explained that Saturday, Jan. 22, at 5 p.m. is the final date and hour for town meeting members whose terms are expiring and who wish to become candidates for re-election to file written request with the Town Clerk. The office of the Town Clerk will be open all that day for the purpose of receiving such notices and also to issue and

receive nomination papers.

No nomination papers will be issued after Thursday, Jan. 27, and they may be obtained only by candidates or persons presenting signed authorization of such candidates to secure such papers.

Saturday, January 29, at 5 p.m. is the final date and hour for filing nomination papers for all town offices including town meeting members, with Registrars and Voters for the certification of signatures. The Town Clerk's office will be open all that day also.

Drug Hot Line
643-1980

Barbara Guptill, Miss Maimone Are On-Job-Trainees

Barbara Guptill, 12 Windsor st., and Marianne T. Maimone, 36 Lakehill ave., are two of 175 students in the fashion and retail merchandising program at Bryant & Stratton who are receiving on-the-job training in their major fields of study through part-time work in stores and boutiques throughout the Greater Boston area. Miss Guptill is interning at Hudson's in Boston. Miss Maimone is working at the Harvard Coop.



K Of C Hosts Party For Fernald Pupils

The Arlington Council Knights of Columbus Hall was transformed into a Rock Concert Hall before Christmas, when the Knights played host to a group of 34 altar boys and choir members from The Fernald School, Waltham, for the 2nd annual Christmas party for Fernald, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.

Three young ladies from Arlington volunteered to play Christmas Carols and sing folk songs for the participants. They were Gail McConnell from Arlington High, Ginny Mooney of Arlington Catholic and Terry Doherty.

The high point of the afternoon was provided by a group called "John and Russ with PJ", from Quincy. This rock group which plays at the Arlington Teen Center, donated their time and talents for those who attended the party.

Arrangements for the band were made through the Teen Center and its Executive Director Bob Offenberger. Santa Claus also made an appearance and gave out presents that were donated by the Knights. Fried chicken, cakes, ice cream and cake were served.

State Policeman Stone Promoted

Joseph A. Stone, 36, of 47 Lennon st., was promoted to the rank of corporal in the Uniformed Branch of the Massachusetts State Police. Cpl. Stone joined the State Police in 1960, and is currently assigned to Troop A, Framingham Barracks, on Rte. 9. Formerly he served at the Rte. 2 Barracks in Concord and at several locations throughout the state.

Son of Mrs. Mary Stone of 61 Fountain rd., Cpl. Stone is a native of Arlington who was graduated from Mission High School in Roxbury in 1954. He is an Army veteran.

He and his wife Loretta have four children, Cynthia 9, Janet 8, Joseph Jr. 6, and Kathy 2.

Diozzi Is Grad

PARRIS ISLAND, S.C. Marine Pvt. Thomas J. Diozzi, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dante E. Diozzi of 24 Michael st., was graduated from recruit training at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C. He is a 1970 graduate of Arlington Catholic High School.

Bucks, Lakers, AC, Sacco, St. James, Belden Winners

The Recreation Department's High School and Adult Basketball Leagues got underway last week at the Junior High West Gymnasium.

On Friday, the High School League began with the Junior Division. The Bucks topped the Bullets 29-20 with Stratton, Colley, Meadows and Pitt the leading scorers. Vallerio, Luzo, Courtois and Sullivan sparked the Bullets.

In the other Junior Division game the Lakers exploded for six quick points in an overtime period and went on to beat the Celtics 29-22. Nigro, Vellerelli, Evelon and Curran led the Lakers attack while Hall, Green, Robinson, Burke and Gardner were some of the Celtics point producers.

In the Senior Division, St. James beat the Lakers 44-30 as Joe Sallak, Jack Repetto and

Rollie St. Hillaire combined for 34 points to pace the winners. Don Weismann, Nick Sacca and Jim Donovan played well for the Lakers.

Arlington Catholic won a close contest from the Legion 31-28 with Spencer and Kennedy leading the way. Joe Souza with 17 points was outstanding for the losers who also had a fine game from Art Ales.

In the Adult League on Wednesday night a very much improved Belden and Snow squad topped BAC 60-40 and defending champ K of C got off on the right foot with a 59-53 victory over the Benchmen.

In other action, the Sacco Club looked strong in beating the Robbins Raiders and the Teachers looked likewise in their victory over the Mohawks.

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WHOLE TWIN PACK OVEN READY

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28¢ LB.

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CHICKEN LEGS

32¢ LB. QUARTERED

NEPCO'S SLICED

BOLOGNA **39¢** 1/2 LB.

LIVERWURST

MINCED HAM

CHICKEN LOAF

OLIVE LOAF

Maple Leaf Skinless **79¢** LB.

HOT DOGS

NEPCO'S COOKED **89¢** 1/2 LB.

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CHICKEN PIES **2 1/2 OZ. 99¢** PIES

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BAGGIES **39¢** GARBAGE BAGS 30 COUNT

BAGGIES **89¢** FOOD BAGS 70 COUNT

COOKIES **39¢** ABC GEORGE INN 12 OZ. PKG.

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34¢ LB.

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Chicken Legs **38¢** LB.

Chicken Breast **58¢** LB.

Chicken Wings **34¢** LB.

Chicken Liver **68¢** LB.

CHICKEN BREAST

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Mon., Tues. 10-12

JOHNNIES FOODMASTER
SALEM ST., THE FALLS, W. MEDFORD
Open Mon. - Thurs. 10-11

Letters

TO THE EDITOR:

We are concerned students of Arlington High School. Also, we have read the article in your paper (January 6, 1972) concerning the so-called "utter chaos" in Arlington High. We feel that the School Committee has distorted the incidents mentioned.

In order for someone to judge and realize the condition of the school, it would be necessary to observe the students for at least a week. It is not fair to judge the school, all of the students, and the administration by a few immature individuals. Because of these acts, why should the whole school be punished including the administration? We feel the School Committee is acting like the owners of a baseball team. If the team doesn't play right, you fire the coach. Does Mr. Murray realize how hard it is to keep track of almost 3000 kids? You mentioned that a teacher was struck by a student, but what you failed to do was mentioned the fact that the teacher struck the student first. Is it only the teachers who have the right to defend themselves?

You also stated that a parent told you that her son had spent all day in the cafeteria unchecked. If it is necessary for someone to be p. in the

cafeteria to watch the students, it will also be necessary to pay him. This also means a higher tax rate for the citizens of Arlington. There are approximately 2,800 students in Arlington High. We have to "live together" for 8 hours a day, 5 days a week. How can you expect there to be no fighting? People are going to be people everywhere. Arlington High School is no exception.

One teacher was quoted as saying "this is the quietest year it's been since I've been teaching here." Mr. Murray you have blown a few isolated incidents way out of proportion. You say that you want the people in this town to know what is going on.

Well, Mr. Murray, we also want the people of this town to know what is going on, but we want them to know the truth. You've made this situation seem more serious than it really is. This publicity may be doing you a lot of good, but what is it doing to us? We don't expect you to hide things from this town, but the manner in which it was presented in the paper sounded as if Arlington High was a battle-zone.

We the Students,
J.S.
J.P.
K.W.
S.D.
D.O.
M.H.

TO THE EDITOR:

How can you and your associates write such an article about Arlington High when you probably have never even spent a day of classes in our school?

You left readers to believe that the school literally resembled an insane asylum. I can assure you that the likes would not be found at Arlington High.

I must admit that Arlington High, like almost every other public high school, leaves much to be desired. We could certainly be offered a better curriculum, which almost goes without saying to this archaic school.

Naturally we have our troublemakers in this school. Aside from a minority of real convicts, these troublemakers should be looked upon as young children going through their adolescent changes. Their acts, which tend to be built up into sexual or effectual perversion, are mischievous doings, the result of permissiveness of school officials.

This means that I believe if the administration would carry out their threats to enforce discipline then these young roughies would be put in their place.

As for a few major incidents that have brought a condescending attitude toward the school, your paper certainly does not help to lessen the stress of the bad ways that

always seem to take precedence over any beneficial projects being done.

Maybe if you spent a day here in some of our more usual or interesting classes rather than dig your sources from unqualified individuals you would write a series of articles to counterbalance the upsets you have achieved for our school.

Thank you for your time.
A Student

TO THE EDITOR:

I am writing this letter concerning the front page article in the Jan. 6 edition of The Arlington Advocate. I feel that although the incidents mentioned are true, they are greatly exaggerated and caused by a very small percent of students.

It is not a true picture of Arlington High. I do not think the school is in "utter chaos." Nor am I "afraid to walk the corridors." As suggested in the article, overcrowded con-

ditions seem to be the main problem.

In conclusion, it is my opinion that the problem lies not with the present high school administration but with the condition of the school itself.

Sincerely,
Mark Barry
35 Fox Meadow Ln.

TO THE EDITOR:

I believe the situations regarding the irresponsible behavior of a number of students at Arlington High School are a common problem in a number of schools today. Unfortunately incidents seem to be occurring with greater frequency than ever before.

Corrections are in order, but the question of where the fault lies must be established. Education as a whole seems to be in need of reform in order to better motivate students so they won't be idle and have the time to be committing such undesirable acts.

It would be unfair if the administration of Arlington High School had to pay for

these problems that aren't entirely of their own doing.
A Student

TO THE EDITOR:

With regard to your article about the Arlington High School chaos, I submit this letter.

As an Arlington High School student, I think I have more authority on the subject, than a one day visitor to our school. I walk through the halls of the school, everyday, every 45 minutes. I'm not just an observer there to check out the behavior and conduct of the school for one day. I think if anything occurs in the school, a student attending the school would know the direct facts, instead of assuming them, or jumping to conclusions as visitors might be tempted to do.

To begin with, the school committee picked a rather

peculiar day to evaluate our school. The day before Christmas vacation, in any school, anywhere, won't be a normal day for any student, or even any teacher. Some kind of excitement or high tension is present in a public gathering or vacation. This can't possibly be avoided. Thus the school as a whole had high spirits on the day of evaluation, anyway.

The school, I agree, is in a bad state and started six to seven years ago. It was at that time something should have been done. It is impossible to correct in two weeks what has been snowballing for the last six to seven years. But every school is plagued with the problems now facing Arlington High. We're not alone. These problems have long been existing, and because this is the first time they have been revealed, this is the first time

we've decided to anything about them. That is, if we do do anything about them.

Sincerely,
Nancy J. Venti
20 Lafayette St.

TO THE EDITOR:

I think the article about the situation at Arl. High was absolutely ridiculous. I think the whole situation was like taking an anthole and making it into a mountain. I don't think you have the right to exaggerate like you did in this article. Sure, I'll admit the students in Arl. High aren't exactly the Apostles, but the way you exaggerate it makes the students look like The Mafia. And as to absenteeism, I don't exactly call the day before vacation a very good day to come to take a survey of the school!

Well, I could go on forever.

but I'd like to end with this. Thanks to exaggeration and persuasive writing, you have completely ruined the reputation of Arl. High. Thanks again!!

Linda Machi
45 Fairview Ave.

TO THE EDITOR:
I think every thing they said in the paper was blown out of proportion. Every thing had happened but not as bad as it sounds. They think that we are a bunch hoodlums but they should look at the other schools. Why should we get the bad part of the stick. But if we had open campus kids would be out of schools and not having trouble in school.

Thank you
Tom Ferrante

(Letters - Page 7)

FRANK J. CHIARA, JR., ESQ.

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T-FRONT LOUNGE CHAIR No. 588
Marigold Matlesse

CLUB CHAIR, Genuine Leather

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SOFA LOUNGER

Plain Blue Body, Plaid Bolsters

BARREL ARM LAWSON DIVAN
Herculon Tweed

CHAIR TO MATCH

SOFA No. 8219, Striped

DIVAN, Crushed Velvet 105" long
No. 2740

LOUNGE CHAIR No. 109
Plaid Herculon

SWIVEL ROCKER
Mediterranean Style

RECLINER ROCKER No. 960
Blue Nylon Velvet

MODERN RECLINER
Velvet with Chrome Base

RECLINER ITALIAN No. 713
Provincial Wood Trim Black Vinyl

ROCKER RECLINER
No. 951 Nylon Tapestry

RECLINER, Gold Vinyl No. 172
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ROCKER RECLINER
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Maple Arms

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BEDROOM SET Includes Night Table

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Letters

TO THE EDITOR:

I am a student of Arlington High, and I do not agree with your article that you printed about our High School. Mr. Murray set out to do it in good faith, but I think that it backfired, because the way the article was printed, it was blown completely out of proportion from what really goes on in Arlington High.

Not only were the students offended by those articles but parents started to become over concerned. For months, our student council has been trying to get us a flexible campus plan. But they are always turned away with an excuse. Now that your article was printed it has ruined our chances more than ever to get a flexible campus plan.

More than half the students did not even know about those things that happened up here but when it publicized it gave the innocent kids a chance to become radical. I know that being radical is not the right way to get things done but now up to this point it seems to be the best way. But think of it this way if you were a student of Arlington High how would you like it if someone wrote about you with only half truth and made you sound like a bunch of unhuman people how would you feel.

Sincerely yours,
J. Brescia
34 Waldo rd.

TO THE EDITOR:

I am a student at Arlington High, and I was quite surprised when I read the paper. It was the first I had heard of such

trouble. To my knowledge, this was blown up all out of proportion.

Mr. Murray makes the situation sound as if students and teachers practically feared for their lives walking through the corridors. This I know to be false.

The incidents referred to as "girls being molested" - guys whistle and hoot at girls as they go past, and even if a girl does get pinched once in a while, it is not as serious as Mr. Murray seems to be trying to make it appear.

It is also interesting to me that the rest of the School Committee did not know the content of Mr. Murray's speech until that night, and that they were in quite a bit of disagreement among themselves over it.

Mr. Murray is playing politics, as it appears to me. I think it's hardly fair to us, the students of Arlington High to involve us.

A Concerned Student

TO THE EDITOR:

I am a student at Arlington High School and I am very interested in the problems that are now going on but I feel that it has gone way out of proportion. How about some of the other towns that when they read the paper read about Arlington these people who don't go to Arlington or live in Arlington will think that the teachers and kids are getting molested like getting raped, having knives been put to their faces when this just isn't true.

But the way some people who don't even live in Arlington are talking they think this town is really bad. And the town will get a reputation because of a story that Mr. Murray put in the paper. The way he is talking he's making sound like girls are getting raped, killed and then put in lockers.

A Student

TO THE EDITOR:

In my opinion the goings on as you put it in this school are highly over rated. Maybe one of the reasons is overcrowding. Or maybe if there were a little more to do when you have a study or open period, then the kids would not all hang around the halls and then would not start to vandalize.

Also putting all this in the paper was a big mistake. Now the kids have it in their mind that what ever happens that is really big in this school will make the news or papers. Just like the day before I wrote this letter I was sitting in the cafeteria and someone lit off a blockbuster. Then there were two false alarms and all that was on account of the newspaper articles and news on t.v. If they say it's as bad as they think let them come in and spend a day in this school and let them really find out what it's like.

A Student

TO THE EDITOR:

I am a student at Arlington High School and I am writing concerning what has been happening at the school. I think much of this has been over done. True, some of this has been happening but it's not as bad as it sounds.

Only a certain group has been doing this and I would hardly call it molesting. Also, if we had more things to do on our free time at the school, some of the kids wouldn't go around and looking for girls to so call molest.

The group that has been causing most of the trouble walk around like they own the school, and are to "big headed."

Also much of what has been written such as doors being torn off the wall, I didn't even know about or see.

A Student

TO THE EDITOR:

I disagreed with the article you have written, concerning the situation at Arlington High School. You used the word "molest" too loosely, and it suggests something that didn't happen at all. This whole matter, I think, is blown up out of proportion.

If you had used the word "pinch" or "tease" it would have stated exactly what happened, and articles in the Boston Globe and bulletins on television and radio were needless and unnecessary. It seems that you were waiting for a chance to jump at anything that happened at Arlington High, you did, and now Arlington's reputation is ruined toward other towns.

Joe O'Quinn
44 Menotomy rd.

TO THE EDITOR:

I think your recent article on Arlington High was very much misled. Because you used the word molest which make it sound very bad or very serious and by far in my mind there is no one getting raped or molested more like being hassled some, some being pinch and some ask for it.

I also would like to state this flexible campus the School Committee has given us is a farce. Instead of going to your study hall they let you sit in the cafeteria where you can not smoke, the vol. of the juke box can not be heard and you can not play cards. Sure they gave us permission to smoke outside in the freezing cold. Why in all God name should I go out in the freezing cold and smoke when I can have one inside. (Would you do it?)

Sincerely yours,
Brian P. Lynch
11 Winter st.

TO THE EDITOR:

I am a student of Arlington High and I agree that there are problems up here. But I think it was blown way out of proportion. It makes all the students of Arlington High look like slob, even the innocent ones.

Sincerely,
Paul Marino
29 Magnolia st.

TO THE EDITOR:

I am a student attending Arlington High School and am concerned about the conditions of the high school. In my opinion I think that during a students free period he should be allowed to go anywhere within the school vicinity. I also think that students who are not interested in school education should not be allowed in the school.

A Student

TO THE EDITOR:

I am also concerned about the way our school is being run. The way in which Mr. Murray stated it I don't agree with but in some ways I think something should be done about it. It concerns me because I am a student here at Arlington High.

Mr. Murray should have said it is only the minority of kids in this school which have made it like it is. This way its hurting everyone and the innocent especially. They should be doing something about this and not just sit around and talk about it.

I have a lot more to say but I can't fit it all into words.

A Student

(Letters - Page 8)

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Letters

TO THE EDITOR:

It's about time that some of the problems at AHS have come out into the open. However, I do feel that the situation described by Mr. Murray has not quite reached the point where "students and faculty alike are fearful for their very well being."

It is true that there have been isolated incidents of harassment of girls by some of the boys, vandalism, and abuse of the school. These problems should without question be given consideration. However, it is also true that other high schools have similar problems. This is not by any means a justification of the problems at AHS. The fact is, many problems in the high school do prevail, and they demand closer examination than the mere acknowledgement of their existence and a few feeble attempts at deterrent.

Has anyone on our venerable school committee stopped to ask WHY our high school has these problems? Does anyone know what it is like to be a student confronted with overcrowded classes in archaic buildings, a limited curriculum, apathetic teachers, and an administration that is inconsistent in the enforcement of school rules?

Most important of all, has anyone recently evaluated the teachers and the guidance department? It is in these areas that the roots of our problem lie.

Unless a serious inquest is undertaken into the academic inadequacies of AHS, of which disciplinary problems are only offshoots, I am afraid that no significant improvement is possible.

Very truly yours,
Linda Cataldo
AHS student
94 Ridge St.

TO THE EDITOR:

In commenting on the article published in the last issue of The Arlington Advocate concerning the present situation in Arlington High School, I would like to express my opinion that a great injustice was done to the school.

If it is true that the chaotic deeds that were stated to have been done by students actually were acted out by them, they did not exist in such a prevalence as was implied by your newspaper.

At this point, I would like to present my opinion about open campus in relation to this particular topic. I feel that elimination of the proposed open campus would only worsen any difficulties in the school.

In conclusion, it is my opinion that problems of Arlington High School were drastically bent out of proportion. Many of the things stated in the article, I, as many other students, didn't know existed. If these things were in way prevalent, I am certain that in my four years as a student of that school, I would have come in contact with these things.

I feel that the situation is no worse than it ever has been. This, however, is not necessarily good, and like anything else, would appreciate improving. However, I feel that Arlington High School is in no worse a situation than many other schools and other public areas in Arlington.

TO THE EDITOR:

I am a concerned student at Arlington High. I think that the situation has been greatly exaggerated and blown out of proportion.

I do not believe that the word molest is the right word for what is going on at the High School. Maybe nuzzled or some other word not as strong as molest.

We do not have chaos, if come into the school kids running down the hallways or hanging around these

corridors. Maybe there will be a few kids walking around. That is only because there is no were to go during study the cafeteria is so small it can not handle the crowd that go to talk meet friends and there is no room so they go out-side. (sic)

A Student

TO THE EDITOR:

I am infuriated with the kind of publicity Arlington High is receiving. Most of the incidents have been distorted way beyond their actual size. No one at AHS fears his life. From your articles you make AHS sound like one of those previous prison rights. Well you are totally wrong! It is not as bad as it sounds.

Granted, the boys act immature now and again, but is only about a handful of them that do. Out of 3000 students you can't expect everything to run smoothly every minute of the day.

Besides, the School Committee came to AHS on December 22, the day school was being released for Christmas vacation. I am sure that all other schools were in "utter chaos," as you put it, on their last day of school. No one wants to go to class because nothing is being taught, most teachers don't take attendance and there is more excitement outside of the classroom and schools.

I hope you realize the shame you have imposed on students at AHS. Every one was laughing at the stupidity of the School Committee broadcasting it.

There is an answer to why it was openly broadcasted. Town elections are coming up again this year and many School Committee members would like to be re-elected. They feel that by doing a service to some students, the parents will re-elect them. They are wrong! They brought too much shame to too many innocent students. This scandal will long be remembered by teachers, the administration, the parents and especially the students.

Oh yes, one last thing. Mr. Locke, Mr. Taylor, and the housemasters have been doing their jobs. To lose them would be a great set back.

A Student

TO THE EDITOR:

I feel the situation of Arlington High is partly out of control but, I feel that there are other schools twice as worse.

The fifties corridor is better than before, now that they finally have someone standing at one end but now, the kids are beginning to move to the other end of the corridor, this is true because I had been pinched walking by.

I don't think its fair that girls should have to go out of their way to go to one of their classes when normally it would take less time if they could walk down the fifties hall safely.

The situation of the teacher being hit, the way I heard it was, the teacher hit the kid first so what was he suppose to do, stand there?

The newspaper listed all the things that are happening around the school, but the way they word it, it sounds like all the kids are to blame about everything.

A Student

TO THE EDITOR:

Before I start I will say that everything Mr. Murray, Chairman of the School Committee, was in a way true. The first point he made was that a student struck a teacher, it does not go on to say that even though the student may have antagonized the teacher, he (the teacher) struck the student first. Then the student requested the presence of the teacher outside after school to finish the conflict.

Another point Mr. Murray made clear the way he wanted to was that a parent was concerned that her child was in the school Cafeteria unchecked all day. How could this have been prevented. No teacher is assigned to the Cafeteria all day. This student could very easily have skipped the homeroom period, then he would have been listed as absent. There is no way one teacher could be responsible for the 2800 students to check and see if one has become disinterested with school.

These are only two of the facts which I feel were true but stated very "poorly" by Mr. Murray. I hope in the future that when it comes to telling important facts the facts will show both sides.

A Student

TO THE EDITOR:

I think your (sic) wrong and you don't know what your (sic) talking about. If you were here 5 days a week 6 hour a day your what happen but your not so shut up (sic).

TO THE EDITOR:

My opinion on what The Advocate wrote was exaggerated a great deal. Arlington High School isn't at all as bad as you people say it is. You make it sound like the boys are raping the girls.

Other towns that hear about this think we are a real bunch of riot making kids. The kids aren't had at all, some of them have their times and they pay for it. But there is one kid who I would like to see get kicked out because he is causing most of the trouble and his name is (Name Withheld). I dislike that kid with great passion. I don't see why we all should be getting so involved when most of the trouble is with (Withheld) and his cool

gang!!! (which isn't cool at all). This is my opinion and it all is true. The Arlington High School students aren't that bad. Karen Crescentini A sophomore

TO THE EDITOR: I feel the epic of A.H.S. was handled by the news media in a very blown up style. Sure A.H.S. has its problems but then again so do other high schools!!! Yours truly Steve Fopiano 75 Maynard St.

(Letters - Page 19)

A Student

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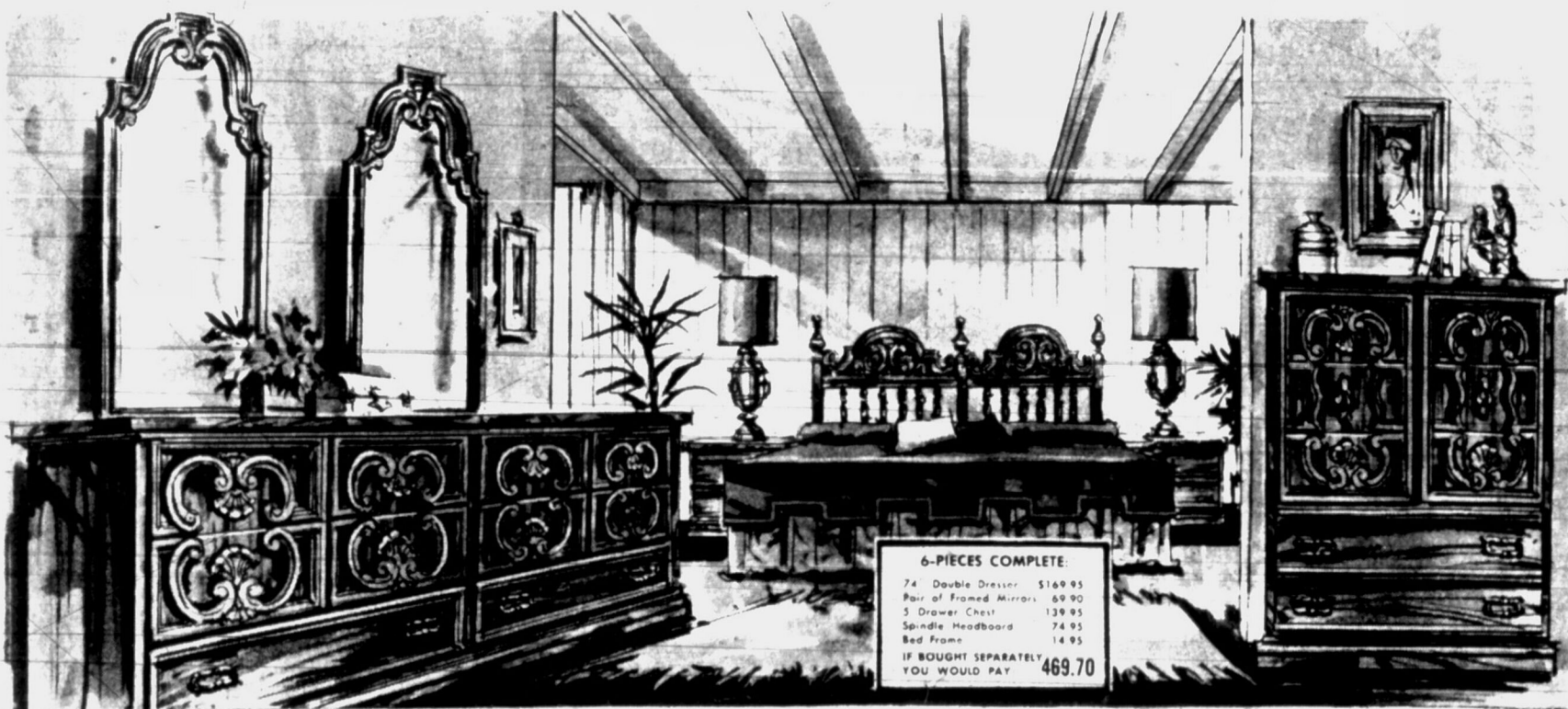
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WOMEN OF THE GUARD—Valerie Norwood and Steven Nuding of Boston, and Linda Milani of Arlington express conflicting emotions in rehearsal for the Staff & Key production of "The Yeomen of the Guard" to be given at Winchester High School Auditorium, Jan. 14, 15, 21 and 22 at 8:30 p.m. The production is directed by Constance J. Miller and George R. Fulginiti. Proceeds will go to charity.

Board Continues Hatch Act Hearing

Selectmen, Monday night continued a hearing relative to the "Hatch Act," tabled action on charges relative to rubbish collection and tabled action relative to the issuance of a licence for storage of volatile inflammable fluid. The latter was tabled until Jan. 24.

Attorney Hugh Mulligan representing John B. Sullivan discussed a proposal for construction of seven houses along a narrow strip of land in the rear of the Magnolia, Thorndike, Lafayette st. sector.

Lowering and filling of a small section of the land involved would be necessary in conjunction with any such proposal. A narrow portion of the land involved is considered to be in a flood plain and therefore comes under the Hatch Act.

Such acts calls for hearings before the Board of Selectmen in case of dredging or filling of such land. The Board's action will then be sent to State Dept. of Natural

Resources.

Meanwhile, Town Manager Donald R. Marquis brought up his proposal relative to the collection of fees for rubbish collection in all buildings except one-two and three family houses, churches, town buildings and public and parochial schools.

Marquis explained that because of anti-pollution laws which went into effect last summer, the town must pick up more rubbish than before and as a result has had to add a new rubbish route.

The Manager stated that cost of such operation would be between \$30,000 and \$35,000. He explained that cost of collection would be 25 cents per barrel.

Supt. of Public Works Raymond Ouellette told those present at the meeting that all collections are now taken up on a weekly basis with the exception of Symmes Hospital, where the collections are taken up every day.

★ Reaction

(Continued From Page 1)

problems Murray cited. Her letter received no response from the community or the school department—as a reminder she submitted it again this week.

In the fall conditions at the cafeteria had gotten so bad that the Student Council itemized specific complaints and presented them to the School Committee for action. But it took Murray's charges of last week to get some action started.

The cry heard this week that Murray has embarrassed students, the school and the community—that he exaggerated—that the conditions he itemized were a surprise to most people doesn't hold up when you look back. There's been plenty of warning and plenty of publicity.

On Tuesday the high school administrators will come in with their suggestions. Murray promised last week that if the committee didn't find their recommendations acceptable he would be looking for changes in administrative personnel and structure.

Some members of the committee will be trying to keep the discussion in closed session. We guess they will argue that individuals, and thus reputations, will be discussed. We don't see how this could be.

They have a choice of hashing over the past, which they have had plenty of opportunity to do, and during which some names might be mentioned, or taking a deep breath and plunging ahead to the future, to the discussion of the administrators' plans and how these plans can be implemented. And so what if names do come up? These are professional town employees, paid by taxpayers, being discussed as professional educators.

At the School Committee meeting a week ago they talked to death a simple motion on tamper-proof light switches and two-way intercom systems at the high school. Then the committee spent 20 minutes talking about whether they should continue talking; adjourn the open session; or table the whole thing and go into their scheduled executive session.

When some students left the meeting early

last week, they turned out the corridor lights, making their point as to what they thought about the School Committee discussing light switches for over an hour.

The School Committee members are not the experts to discuss which kind of light switch is best. They are the policy makers—and next Tuesday they will meet to discuss policy on a program for tighter controls at Arlington High.

School Committee Meeting Tuesday In Auditorium

The Arlington School Committee will hear plans from High School administrators to improve conditions at the school on Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in Lowe Auditorium.

Housing Authority To Consider Letter On Records Access

The Housing Authority will consider a letter from Selectman William Abbott requesting access to certain public records at its next meeting scheduled for Feb. 8.

This week the Authority received a letter from its counsel, Atty. Lawrence E. Corcoran, giving his opinion as to what items on Abbott's list he considered public records.

But Authority Chairman Joseph Vahey said, "We will have to agree as to whether or not to accept counsel's opinion. We all may arrive at the same answer; we may not."

Member Jack Cusack moved to accept their counsel's opinion. Frederick Buckley moved that action be tabled as the Authority had not yet had enough time to study the opinion. Mrs. Joan Gross seconded Buckley's motion and the issue was postponed until the next meeting.



RETIRING—Howard Davis, center, general manager of the Harvard Coop, extends best wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Neal Cotter, left, and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Kiernan, right, who are retiring after 49 years which includes management of the tailor shop. He is writing a book about his life in Cambridge and at The Coop. Mr. Cotter, of 19 Sunset rd., joined the Coop 26 years ago after serving in the Army. For the past 15 years he has managed the TV and appliance department.

Three Injured

Three accidents involving injuries were reported in Arlington during the past few days.

On Jan. 6, Barry W. Cronin, Jr., 8, 6 Clarke st., was treated at Symmes Hospital, after a vehicle was in collision with him on Paul Revere rd.

On the following day, Lawrence Bonello, 15 Day st., Arlington, was treated at Symmes Hospital after a two car accident on Appleton st.

Meanwhile, on the same day, Jean Spadaro, 14, 132 Scituate st., was treated at Symmes Hospital, after a vehicle was in collision with her while she was crossing Mass. ave. in front of No. 457.

Selectmen Discuss Two Land Articles

Robert McWalters, representing, 30 Water Street Trust and New England Farms met with the Board of Selectmen, this week to discuss possible insertion of two articles relative to land.

One article would be to petition the General Court to authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell some 6,338 square feet of land at assessed or fair market value to the Water Street Trust.

A second proposed article would ask for rezoning of the land from park to industrial. It is expected that the Board of Selectmen will insert the articles in the warrant.

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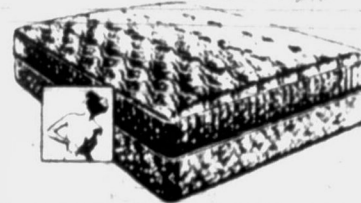
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Nancy E. O'Brien

Nancy O'Brien, Robert Greeley Plan May Rites

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. O'Brien Sr. of Watertown and Manomet announce the engagement of their daughter, Nancy Elizabeth, to Robert Greeley, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph P. Greeley of Arlington.

Mr. Greeley, employed by the New England Telephone Company, will graduate from Babson College in May.

A May 28 wedding is planned.

Miss Fecteau Is Engaged To Anthony Siculo

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest F. Fecteau of Hopkinton announce the engagement of their daughter, Barbara Ann, to Anthony Charles Siculo, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dominic Siculo of Arlington. The wedding is planned for July 2.

Miss Fecteau was graduated from Aquinas Junior College of Business in Newton in 1970. Mr. Siculo was graduated from Saint Anselm's College in Manchester, N. H. in 1969, and is presently a probation officer of the Middlesex Juvenile Probation District.

25th Anniversaries

Four Arlington residents were honored by First National Stores Inc. on the occasion of their 25th service anniversaries with the company recently. They are Laura Pacifici of 43 Menotomy rd.; James O'Donnell of 51 Howell st.; Frank Maimone of 34 Lake Hill Ave.; and Rene Arnaud of 5 Ernest rd. Mrs. Pacifici received a gold bracelet with a diamond chip charm at a service awards dinner at Valle's Restaurant, Braintree recently. The men were given gold tie tacs with diamond chips.

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Miss Vincent Is Bride-Elect Of John Doyle Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. George F. Vincent of Arlington announce the engagement of their daughter, Christine Ann, to John J. Doyle Jr., of Enfield, Conn., son of Mr. and Mrs. John J. Doyle of Milford.

Miss Vincent attended Massachusetts Bay Community College and is employed as a personnel assistant at Itel Corporation, Lexington.

Mr. Doyle, a candidate in residence for a doctor of philosophy degree in economics at Clark University, Worcester, is an instructor at Nichols College, Dudley.

An August wedding is planned.



Maureen Callahan

Miss Callahan, Mr. Carroll To Wed Next July

Mr. and Mrs. Edward V. Callahan of 15 Everett st. announce the engagement of their daughter, Maureen Frances, to Robert William Carroll, son of Mrs. Albert N. Carroll of 9 Johnson rd., and the late Mr. Carroll.

Miss Callahan is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts at Boston and is employed as an Arlington teacher under the Title I program.

Mr. Carroll is a graduate of Boston College and is employed by Chevron Oil Co. in Connecticut.

A July wedding is planned.

Mount Auburn Births

Two babies were born to Arlington parents recently at Mount Auburn Hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. John E. Lavery of 50 Lombard terr., are parents of a daughter, Kerry Michelle, born Dec. 3.

Mr. and Mrs. Manuel Rogers of 63 Adams st., are parents of a son, Mark, born Dec. 29.

Miss Pandolfo, Mr. Kives Set April Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. Frank J. Pandolfo of Arlington, announce the engagement of their daughter, Lorraine, to Stephen T. Kives of West Newton, son of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen A. Kives of Cleveland, Ohio.

Miss Pandolfo is a graduate of Framingham State College. Mr. Kives is a graduate of Boston College.

An April wedding is planned.



Lorraine Pandolfo

Symmes Births

To: Mr. and Mrs. William Gregory Cauley (Barbara M. Griffin) of 19 Epping st., a daughter on Dec. 10.

Mr. and Mrs. John R. Carmichael, Jr. (Eleanor M. Post) of 44 Argyle rd., a son on Dec. 12.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Abbott (Carol J. Nee) of 25 Linwood st., a son on Dec. 12.

Mr. and Mrs. Patrick T. Christiansen (Ann E. Condon) of 19 Arizona terr., a son on Dec. 19.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Albertazzi (Anne G. Marasa) of 60 Thorndike st., a daughter on Dec. 21.

Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Vincent Baranowski (Brenda J. Hoffman) of 59 Trowbridge st., a son on Dec. 26.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard N. Vincent, Jr. (Nancy A. Pellegrino) of 26 Melrose st., a son on Dec. 27.

Mr. and Mrs. Carmen A. Cannistraro (Irene M. Sanseverino) of 62 Brattle st., a daughter on Dec. 29.

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Anne Fetherston

Miss Fetherston Plans To Marry Mr. Strickland

Mr. and Mrs. Dermot H. Fetherston of Mattapan announce the engagement of their daughter, Anne L., to David B. Strickland, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Strickland of Arlington and Rockport.

The bride-elect, who attended Boston State College, is an international stewardess employed by Trans-World Airlines.

Mr. Strickland, a graduate from Wentworth Institute, is employed by the Carlson Corporation, Cohasset.

A fall wedding is planned.

Golden Age Club

The Golden Age Club will meet Jan. 20 at Pleasant Street Congregational Church at 2 p.m. Chester Zucker will show slides of a trip to Sweden with 53 American exchange students. The board will meet at 1 p.m.

Dimes Chairman Asks For Mailers

Mrs. Rita P. Muller, town chairman for the 1972 March of Dimes Campaign in Arlington asks that those who have not already returned their mailers received from the National Foundation-March of Dimes do so at their earliest convenience.

AHS Science Fair Set March 15-17

The Arlington High School Science Club is preparing for its annual science fair to be held in the freshman gym at the high school March 15-17.

Committee chairmen Susan Ross and Madeline Nahabedian report that many more than usual elementary students are submitting projects for the fair. The committee chairmen are hopeful that junior high and high school science club members will submit all types of science projects.

On Dec. 22 the AHS Science Club members, faculty advisors, and families had a Christmas Party at the Leslie residence on Hospital rd. Entertainment was provided by the Harmonettes. Patrick Ross portrayed Santa Claus and distributed grabs.

This year at AHS there are two students from Haiti: Arthur Botelho, biology teacher and advisor, and the club were able to locate two girls who have been devoting time and effort to act as interpreters for the Haitian students.

Carol Lawton, biology teacher, is another advisor.

Bookmobile At Bishop, Thompson Week Of Jan. 17

The Bishop and Thompson Schools are sponsoring a first of its kind book fair in Arlington. The Sundance Bookmobile will be at the Thompson School on Jan. 17 and 18 and move to the Bishop School on Jan. 19 and stay through Jan. 21.

The Bookmobile will be stocked with 800 elementary book titles plus an adult selection of 90 titles. There will be paperbacks ranging in price from 50c to \$1.50 with a few slightly higher. The children will have an opportunity to visit and purchase books during school hours.

The Bishop School will open the bookmobile at 9 in the morning and remain open during school hours. The regular P.T.A. meeting of the Bishop School will be held on Thursday evening Jan. 20th at which time the parents will be invited to view and purchase books at the Bookmobile.

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Coming Events

Feb. 12-21 International Auto Show

Feb. 23 Red Cross Blood Donor Day

Feb. 25-26 Boy Scout Show
(Exhibits & Demonstrations)

March 6-9 Apple Week (Bake-off Contests)

March 11-18 Camp Fire Show (District II)

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